

Claims:

1. A method for treating vulnerable plaque within a blood vessel comprising:
  - identifying an implantation site in a blood vessel with vulnerable plaque, wherein the implantation site is at or upstream of the vulnerable plaque;
  - delivering an expandable medical device containing a therapeutic agent which stabilizes the vulnerable plaque to the blood vessel at the selected implantation site;
  - implanting the medical device at the implantation site; and
  - delivering the therapeutic agent from the expandable medical device to vessel wall tissue over an administration period sufficient to stabilize the vulnerable plaque.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-inflammatory.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a nonsteroidal anti inflammatory.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-metabolite.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an immuno-suppressant.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antithrombin.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-leukocyte.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a high density lipoprotein.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a cyclooxygenase inhibitor.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a glitazones or P par agonist.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is contained in a plurality of openings in the device.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the openings also contain a therapeutic agent for treatment of restenosis.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the therapeutic agent is arranged in the openings for directional delivery primarily to a luminal side of the device.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the openings also contain a therapeutic agent for treatment of restenosis arranged for directional delivery primarily to a mural side of the device.

15. An expandable medical device for delivering a therapeutic agent locally to a vulnerable plaque, the device comprising:

an implantable medical device body configured to be implanted within a coronary artery; and

a therapeutic dosage of a therapeutic agent for stabilization of vulnerable plaque, the therapeutic agent affixed in openings in the implantable medical device body in a manner such that the therapeutic agent is released to the vulnerable plaque

at a therapeutic dosage and over an administration period effective to stabilize the vulnerable plaque.

16. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-inflammatory.

17. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory.

18. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antimetabolite.

19. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is an immunosuppressant.

20. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antithrombin.

21. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-leukocyte.

22. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is a high density lipoprotein.

23. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is a cyclooxygenase inhibitor.

24. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is a glitazones or P par agonist.

25. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is affixed in the medical device for delivery primarily from a luminal side of the medical device, and further comprising an antiresenotic agent affixed to the medical device for delivery primarily from a mural side of the medical device.

26. The device of Claim 15, wherein the therapeutic agent is affixed in the implantable medical device with a biocompatible polymer.